

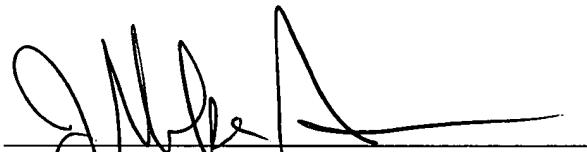
**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3-10 and 12-48 are pending in the present application. Pursuant to the present amendment, claims 1, 3-10 and 12-20 have been canceled. Thus, claims 21-48 are pending in the present application. Claims 21-48 stand allowed. Applicants respectfully request prompt allowance of the present application. However, by virtue of the present amendment, Applicants do not acquiesce in the correctness of the Examiner's positions set forth in the Final Office Action. Applicants specifically reserve the right to pursue the subject matter defined by the canceled claims in a later filed application should they so desire.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for immediate allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (713) 934-4055 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAMS, MORGAN & AMERSON  
CUSTOMER NO. 23720



Date: May 20, 2004

J. Mike Amerson  
Reg. No. 35,426  
10333 Richmond, Suite 1100  
Houston, Texas 77042  
(713) 934-4056  
(713) 934-7011 (facsimile)

ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANTS